Appl. No. 10/668,916
Amdt. dated December 12, 2005
Reply to office action of September 20, 2005

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 20, 2005. The Office Action rejected Applicants' Claims 23 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,699,056 ("Yoshida"). The Office Action rejected Claims 1-9 and 12-18 as being obvious in view of the combination of Yoshida and U.S. Pat. No. 6,490,519 ("Lapidot") and rejected Claims 10-11 as being obvious in view of the combination of Yoshida, Lapidot and U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0152115A1 ("Morita"). The Office Action allowed Claims 19-22.

With this response, Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-16, 18 and 23 have been amended to clarify the subject matter of these claims. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application. Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowed Claims and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 19-22.

Independent Claim 1

Applicants' amended independent Claim 1 relates to a method for developing traffic messages. Claim 1 recites "if a difference between said compared traffic speed at said first location and said traffic speed at said second location is less than a threshold value, grouping said first and second location assigned said location reference codes into a congestion event." Claim 1 is not obvious in view of the combination of Lapidot and Yoshida because the combination fails to disclose or suggest all of the recited claim elements. Specifically, both Lapidot and Yoshida fail to disclose or suggest this recited claim element.

First, as indicated by page 3 of the Office Action, Lapidot does not disclose the recited grouping of locations as recited by the claim element.

Additionally, Yoshida does not disclose or suggest the claim element of "if a difference between said compared traffic speed at said first location and said traffic speed at said second location is less than a threshold value, grouping said first and second location assigned said location reference codes into a congestion event." Yoshida

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discloses a system that receives speed and position information from vehicles traveling roads. (*see*, Yoshida: column 17, lines 60-66). The Yoshida system calculates the average speed for each established block of a map (see blocks A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H shown in Figure 23 of Yoshida) using the speeds of those vehicles located within the block. If the average speed is less than 30 Km/h, the system indicates that a traffic jam occurs in the block. (*see*, Yoshida: column 18, lines 15-25). Yoshida does not disclose or suggest grouping locations into a congest event if the compared traffic speeds at the first and second location are less than a threshold value. In contrast, Yoshida merely discloses averaging the speeds for all vehicles located with each block to identify the presence of a traffic jam in the block; Yoshida does not disclose comparing the speeds.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is not obvious in view of the combination of Lapidot and Yoshida.

Independent Claim 14

Applicants' amended independent Claim 14 relates to a method for developing traffic messages. Claim 14 recites "if said compared traffic speeds differ by less than a predetermined value, aggregating said location reference codes representing said compared locations." For similar reasons as discussed above in conjunction with Claim 1, both Lapidot and Yoshida fail to disclose or suggest this recited claim element. Accordingly, Claim 14 is not obvious in view of the combination of Lapidot and Yoshida.

Independent Claim 23

Applicants' amended independent Claim 23 relates to a method for developing traffic messages. Claim 23 recites "if said compared traffic flow differ by less than a predetermined value, aggregating said compared locations into at least one congestion event along said road." Claim 23 was rejected as being anticipated by Yoshida. For similar reasons as discussed above in conjunction with Claim 1, Yoshida fail to disclose or suggest this recited claim element. Accordingly, Claim 23 is not anticipated by Yoshida.

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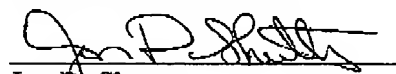Reply to office action of September 20, 2005

Applicants' dependent Claims 2-13 and 15-18

     Applicants' dependent Claims 2-13 and 15-18 are allowable at least for the reason that they depend upon allowable base claims. In addition, these claims include features that are not disclosed by the cited references.

Conclusion

     With the present response, all the issues in the Office Action mailed September 20, 2005 have been addressed. Applicant submits that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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